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■ **PELHAM SUMMERFEST:** Attendance down Saturday for Fonthill event that got off to a solid start

Spirits up at 'Drizzlefest'



GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

A steady rainfall at a weekend festival has its advantages.

"There's less crowds, this is way better," said Sherri McQueen, as her son was taking a turn using a firefighter's hose and daughter and husband were fetching french fries on what had been expected to be the busiest day of the festival.

"We have a change of clothes in the backpack," said the mom who planned to stick around the festival for dinner.

Although attendance was clearly down at the Fonthill event Saturday, the spirits of Randy Allen and his family weren't.

Their watched the rain clouds most of the morning hoping they'd part. They didn't.

"We said if it's one o'clock and it's raining, we're still going down," he said while

holding a big umbrella.

Fonthill does a good job (putting on Summerfest) — they have lots of volunteers — and we're here to support them regardless."

The rain, he also noted, did come with advantages.

"It made it easy to walk. You didn't have to fight through crowds. But I feel sorry for the vendors."

Things were better Thursday and Friday night for sellers.

According to the town's head count, about 6,500 people showed up opening night and about 7,000 on Friday, said Martin.

"Everybody's just here to have fun and have a good time with family and friends," he said, noting the longer turnout on Summerfest's first Country Night, which had people dancing in the street until late hours.

See SUMMERFEST on Page 2

You didn't have to weave your way through Pelham Summerfest crowds Saturday, but you did have to dodge umbrellas.

GREG FURNINGER/STAFF PHOTO

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UPFRONT

SUMMERFEST

Thursday a great night for art vendors

From Page 1

"As in previous years, it's been packed in here (the first two days), they were dancing — it's just like a big community party."

The four-day event cost the municipality only \$15,000 plus in-kind services, and is supported mainly by the business community and other sponsors, said Augustyn, who at one point tweeted to his Twitter followers "#Drizzlefest".

Artist Patricia Paquin was hoping for better weather.

But as long as there was no wind to blow around her tent and artwork — there wasn't — she could live with the rain.

"I've sold every day — even

"today," said the Niagara-on-the-Lake woman.

Thursday evening's kickoff which featured the opening of the four-day juried art show also had the regular Thursday night bandshell concert series present Bee Gees tribute act

"Thursday night it was bedlam here. It was great," Paquin said of the huge turnout. "Thursday was the best for selling."

Despite the rain putting a damper on things — including for jewelry vendors and food servers — kids activities went ahead as planned —

...as well as inflatables — such as face painting, a Reptile King-

dom exhibit, Mad Science, a wet paddle lagoon and Touch-a-Truck display.

Musical entertainment also remained on schedule.

On Sunday morning a modified kids zone was operating with inflatables, plus there was a family fun ride and walk through downtown Fonthill and along the Steve Bauer Trail.

A big \$5 breakfast helped to wind down the festival, and drew many families to Peace Park, where the mood under cloudy skies was far more relaxed than opening night.

greg.furninger@sunmedia.ca

Twitter: @GregAtTheHub



**PHOTOS BY GREG FURNINGER/
QMI AGENCY NIAGARA**
**Wainfleet acrylics
artist Tabitha Stephens
participates in her first
outdoor show, at Pelham
Summerfest.**



The face painting at Pelham Summerfest was outstanding, as shown on the face of eight-year-old Layla Allen.



A stiltwalker amuses kids with his balloon creations over the weekend at Pelham's Summerfest.

A horizontal banner for Lampman Funeral Home. On the left, the company name is written in a large, stylized script font. Below it, the address "724 CANBORO ROAD FENWICK (905) 892-4701" is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. In the center, a photograph of a two-story brick building with a prominent arched entrance is overlaid with the text "Our Family Serving Your Family For Over 100 Years" in yellow, with "since 1911" in smaller text below. To the right of the photo are two black-and-white portraits of men, identified as Irvine Muir and Terry Mikolasek. A small wheelchair accessibility icon is at the bottom right.

LOCAL NEWS

■ PELHAM: Lifeguard pulled three-year-old out of pool, performed CPR

She saved a child's life

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

It took only seconds for the little boy to slip under the knee-deep water.

At first, life guard Alyssa Rosman thought the boy was just playing. She quickly realized she was in the middle of a life-or-death situation.

"He wasn't coming up for air," said Rosman, 21, of Port Colborne.

She ran into the massive outdoor pool at Bissell's Hideaway in Pelham, scooped the child out of the water and within moments was going through the lifesaving routine she has practised so many times.

"I did one round of compressions and he spit out the water and started crying," Rosman said.

The scene around her was a bit chaotic.

The boy's six-year-old brother was there, but his parents weren't around. Others who witnessed the CPR procedure found it to be too much, and were in tears.

Rosman remained calm.

"You're not really thinking about it at that point. You're just happy he's breathing. It was a relief," she said.

By the time the Pelham fire department and Niagara EMS workers arrived a few minutes later, the boy was alert and back in the care of his parents, who had briefly left the pool area while their child slept.

Though he was taken to hospital for precautionary reasons, the three-year-old fully recovered.

Rosman, who has worked at the Metler Rd. resort for the past three years, was honoured at a recent Pelham town council meeting for her efforts.

"Most people don't realize how well (lifeguards) perform in those situa-

tions," Pelham fire Chief Bob Lyman-burner said. "I've been to incidents where professionals in other fields can't get it together. The person that can step up and do what she did is truly a professional. Being trained and being able to do it are two different things."

"To me, I was just doing my job," Rosman said.

"That's what I've been training for all these years."

Bissell's owner Ed Miklavcic said Rosman did exactly what she was supposed to.

"It does happen sometimes that (lifeguards) could freeze. They're young kids, and sometimes it's their first major incident that could happen to them, so it's very impressive when they step up like that," he said.

Bissell's employs about 20 lifeguards during the summer months, and has 10 on patrol around its 0.4-hectare pool. Miklavcic said there has never been a drowning in the park's 40-year history.

Rosman, a microbiology and immunology student at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, said the incident should be a lesson for parents.

"We're there, but when the pool is full with other people we can't see everyone at the same time," she said.

Rosman figures the toddler was under the water for less than 30 seconds, but said it doesn't take long for a child to go unconscious.

"It's important the parents are watching too, because it could have all been prevented," she said.

The family involved in the near-drowning asked that their names not be released and haven't talked publicly about the incident.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

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COMMENT

Potential multifaceted community centre synopsis

After my column last week, I wanted to give you an overall synopsis regarding recreational and community centre-type needs, wants and costs and the potential of a new facility.

You will recall that the Town hired LeisurePlan International last summer to develop a market analysis, business case study, and facilities review. After a resident survey, detailed analysis and a comparison to industry standards, LeisurePlan recommended in January that the town:

- replace the existing single-pad with a new arena;
- design a new twin-pad facility and phase the construction — build one ice pad first (contingent on capital financing) and construct the second pad after 2023/24 (should the sustaining demand develop);
- provide a multi-purpose facility to

accommodate demand for participation in fitness activities, walking/running on an indoor track, and gymnasium sports;

- provide multi-purpose program space;
- not exceed \$2.2 million in cost due to lack of demand and associated costs;

In April, LeisurePlan presented various options and recommended that the town build "integrated facilities" — a multi-purpose community complex — for \$22 million to \$27 million. (The firm estimated that an integrated facility would cost up to \$1.1 million less in capital costs than two, stand-alone facilities.)

In May, LeisurePlan projected net operating costs for an integrated facility at \$63.715 in the first year, and declining slightly each year for the next four years. As a comparison, the existing arena's net operating costs were \$64,366 in 2011, \$75,477 in 2012 and \$92,486 in 2013.

Because the estimated costs to operate a multifaceted community centre is less than the existing arena's operating loss, town staff recommended that the town could fund the construction.

In essence, the recommendations say that the community would provide sustaining demand; if we can afford to construct a new multi-faceted community centre, we could afford to operate it.

So, how do we try to make the capital costs for a potential new community centre affordable for local, municipal taxpayers? We need to turn to provincial and federal government support.

To do that we will need more detailed plans (design drawings) and tighter cost estimates.

That's why town council recently appointed a community design committee members — with representatives from recreation user groups, youth, seniors, artists, service clubs and the community-at-large. We have also asked for quotes from four, short-listed design firms so we can pick an architect.

As I wrote about last week, based on LeisurePlan's reports, the condition of the existing arena, and imminent developments, town council recently decided to begin design of a potential multi-faceted community centre on the town-owned lands in the east Fonthill area.

We will continue to keep you informed so we can work together about this very important matter for Pelham.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca with questions or to suggest future topics. Check out links for documents and past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

Shipwrecks — Jose Marti

SKIP GILLHAM
For Pelham News

The Cuban freighter *Jose Marti* had just been built when it first came through the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1977.

The 149-metre-long cargo carrier had been completed in Denmark and was used in the sugar trade.

It was built in Cuba in 1990 and renamed *Taino*. This vessel brought sugar to Toronto in April 1991.

It was sailing under a fifth name of *Agate Islands* when it was lost on Feb. 25, 2007. The ship had been sold for scrapping in India and was under tow of the tug *Rig Deliverer* when it was lost in the Indian Ocean about 120 kilometres east of Durban, South Africa. No one was on board at the time.



PHOTO: BON BEAUPRE COLLECTION

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PELHAM NEWS DATEBOOK

JULY 24

BIRDS OF PREY

The Canadian Raptor Conservancy educates all ages about raptors and their important role within nature. Don't miss out on this awesome live bird presentation at 1 p.m. at Fonthill's Peace Park (Pelham Public Library's Festival Room in case of rain). Registration required. Call 905-892-6443.

JULY 28

BIRDING: NORTHERN PERU

John Black and Marcie Jacklin will give a presentation at Pelham Public Library on their recent birding trip. They managed to see 500-plus species of birds in 13 days. Black produced Niagara Birds with Kayo Roy, and is past-president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. Jacklin contributed several articles to the book Niagara Birds. Starts 6:30 p.m.; cost \$3. Register ahead at 905-892-6443.

JULY 29

HEIRLOOM VEGETABLES

Linda Cragg of Tree and Twig Heirloom Vegetable Farm will talk about this timely topic, including purple carrots and yellow tomatoes, as well as about the concept of community-supported agriculture. 6:30 p.m. at Pelham Public Library. Cost \$2. Register ahead at 905-892-6443.

JULY 30

FREEGAL MUSIC DOWNLOADS

Learn how to easily search, download or stream music to various devices from Pelham Public Library's Freegal program. Bring your device and library card. A few laptops will be available on site. Free, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Register ahead.

AUGUST 9

MEDITATION

at Pelham Public Library. Marcia leads you through different types of meditations, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Great for beginners and people who have meditated before. Bring a pen and notebook. Cost \$3; register ahead at 905-892-6443.

ONGOING

ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

Have fun and improve your

communication skills, for free at any or all of the Rose City Toastmasters summer meetings: July 10 and 23, Aug. 7 and 20, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lower Community Room of Welland Arena, 501 King St., Welland. Visit welland.toastmasterclubs.org.

SECOND CAREER

information sessions at Employment Solutions, 3 East Main St., Welland, on Fridays July 18, 25; 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call 905-788-3751 or e-mail reception@employment-solutions.org to reserve a spot.

SPAN

(Single Person Association of Niagara) is a social club since 1982 for mature singles who meet and mingle at Iggy's Pub, 115 Hwy. 20, Fonthill, every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Offers members a monthly calendar of social activities. Further information: Call Lynne at 905-788-0359.

BEGINNER BRIDGE

Learn as you play, at Pelham Public Library. Ed Hills, a certified instructor with the ACBL and ABTA, will walk you through your first game of bridge. Tuesdays, July 22, Aug. 11, 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Register ahead at www.pelhamlibrary.on.ca or 905-892-6443.

APPLE DUMPLING CAFE

Saturdays 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Division St., Welland. Enjoy square舞 coffee. Hot apple dumplings with sauce, plain and raisin品种, clotted cream and jam, tea and coffee. All proceeds to the work of the church.

OPEN ART NIGHTS

Join us every Thursday from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at West Main St. Open to all ages. Bring your equipment, supplies, and materials and enjoy a social environment with other creative people. Open to painters, illustrators, photographers, or all other creative forms. For more information, contact deadpoolstar@gmail.com or check out bitly.ca.

INFERTILITY SUPPORT GROUP

Niagara meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. for anyone experiencing primary infertility. Call or text 289-821-4605 or e-mail infertilityniagara@hotmail.com for location or more information.

WELLAND RIVER KEEPERS

meets the third Tuesday of every month at Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority office, 250 Thorold Rd. W., Welland, third floor, 7 p.m. More info, 905-735-9861.



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LOCAL NEWS

Library Notes

Summerfest has come and gone with lots of fun for everyone. The next event to look forward to is Civic Holiday weekend.

Pelham Public Library will be closed as usual on the holiday Monday, Aug. 4.

Prior to then, TGF Crafting

Drop-ins are Fridays, July 25 and Aug. 1, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$2, and no pre-registration is needed. A Gadget Clinic is July 26 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please register, pay ahead (\$5 per half-hour) and outline the problem you are having with your device.

Absolute Beginner Bridge

— or as we prefer to call it: Easybridge — continues on July 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. Intermediate Bridge occurs Wednesday, Aug. 6 (drop-in at 1 p.m., with a partner if possible, \$1 per session).

(Just a heads-up: There is another Gadget Clinic coming up, on Aug. 9, and as well as a

meditation session on the same day.)

The week of July 28 to Aug. 2 also has several interesting adult programs.

The Binding Northern Peru from the Amazon to the Pacific presentation will be given by John Black, past-president of the Ontario Field Ornithologists, with Kayo Roy of Niagara Birds and Marcie Jardin, a biological sciences librarian at Brock University, as co-authors of several articles to Niagara Birds. The presentation takes place Monday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$3. Please pre-register.

On Tuesday, July 29, at 6:30 p.m., we welcome Linda Crago, who, as I'm sure you know, is a regular at Pelham Farmers' Market and has a local business called Twigs and Roots, a garden Vegetable Farm. History, vegetables and the concept of community-supported Agriculture will be her topics. Cost is \$2. Pre-registration is recommended.

Thanks to the generosity of the Pelham Art Festival, on Wednesday, July 30, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., there will be a Freigal workshop. Freigal is a music download service that provides wide access to thousands of artists and their music. Your library card allows

three song downloads per week, or three hours of streaming per day. The workshop will tell you how to search, download or stream music to a device of your choice. Bring your device and library card. A few laptops will be available. This session is free, but please pre-register.

Last, but by no means least — are you looking for some books that you no longer want? We will be holding our regular summer book sale from Monday, Aug. 18, to Saturday, Aug. 23 — the book sale open whenever the library is open. We take most books, with the exception of textbooks and encyclopedias, so here is an opportunity to tidy up the basement or attic and do some good at the same time. Volunteers to sort and sell are always needed, so sign up at the circulation desk if you have a few hours to contribute.

And that's about all this time, except to direct the attention of all you local history buffs and former Lincoln and West Lincoln residents to a program on Grimsby Beach: Then and Now which will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 13. I'll return to that next time.

See you at the library.

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RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

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Tuesday July 29	9:30 am - 10:30 am	Tuesday July 29	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday July 30	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Thursday July 31	10:00 am - 11:00 am

Aqua Zumba @ Pelham Community Pool

Monday July 28	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Wednesday July 30	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
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Drop in and try any session for \$6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60. For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! – July 29 & 31

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Summer Programs - Aquatics & Summer Camps

Our Summer Programs have limited availability. Registration is still available for swimming lessons, Summer Day Camps, Playground Program, Specialty Camps: Bike Camp; Art Camp; Sports Camp; You're the Chef Camp. Registration forms are available at pelham.ca and at Town Hall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Pelham Farmers' Market – May 1 until October 30 - Pelham Town Square – July 17 - Market Bucks Winner: Emily Allan

Come out and meet your local market vendors and purchase food that is fresh, high in quality and the next best thing to harvesting it yourself. Every Thursday from May 1 to October 30, 4:30pm till dusk.

Free (((Wi-Fi))) available @ Peace Park in Fonthill. Be sure to check it out when attending any summer events or taking a stroll through the park!



The Village of Fenwick celebrated its 160th Anniversary in June 2013. Now you have the opportunity to be a part of Fenwick's future. **Purchase a granite brick to be incorporated into the downtown Fenwick beautification project.** Standard, double, veteran's and corporate bricks are available. Visit pelham.ca for details or come in to Town Hall (20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill, L0S 1E0).

LOCAL NEWS

POLICING: Vigilant family pet helps police collar criminal

Crime-fighting canine nabs intruder

BILL SAWCHUK
QMI Agency Niagara

A persistent family pet helped collar an intruder and foil a robbery in rural west St. Catharines last Friday.

The dog, a five-year-old German shepherd named Kaylee, led police to a bandit who had been hiding in a wooded area at the rear of the home.

"Without the family dog, we wouldn't have found the guy — without a doubt," said Const. Derek Watson of the Niagara Regional Police. "They were out at a funeral."

After being alerted by an alarm company, an officer arrived at the home at about 2 p.m. to find the rear patio door open and the dog sitting outside in the backyard, Watson said.

As the officer waited for

backup before searching the house, the dog was barking and growling. The officer said to the dog, "Where's he? Where did he go?"

The dog led the officer to the back of the property, but the officer didn't see or hear anyone.

(Kaylee) is trained not to leave me," Inglis said, adding she is the homeowner who was attending a funeral in Dunnville at the time of the break-in.

The dog goes to the property line

and freezes, unless she has permission, so I think she stopped because she was waiting for permission," Inglis said.

The officer went back to the home, but the dog remained agitated and began barking and growling again.

The officer and the dog returned to the back of the prop-

erty and the officer spotted the suspect from a distance, walking through a vineyard and visibility out of breath.

The suspect was arrested. Police say a search of the suspect's backpack found break-in tools and jewelry that had been stolen from the home.

We're very happy with Inglis," Inglis said. "I'm glad we caught her. She is very protective. She's a great dog. The officer joked the police should take her and train her."

Inglis believes the thief

entered the home at the back and was standing in the kitchen when the dog started him.

The thief ran to the bedroom, shut the doors, took jewelry and a laptop, then left through the bedroom window, which was found open.

A search of the woods by police recovered the family laptop. The canine unit led police to the suspect's bicycle on Saturday.

Inglis said his car keys are the only thing still missing. He said he was going to get a metal

detector to see if he could find them.

"It was an awful, sick kind of feeling knowing somebody got in," Inglis said.

"Your privacy is totally violated."

As for special treats for his crime-fighting canine, Inglis said the officer returned later

in the day with a large marrow bone for Kaylee.

"She gets treats all the time," Inglis said with a laugh.

Jean Lavallee, 39, of St. Catharines, is charged with break and enter.

BILL SAWCHUK@SUMMEDIA.CA
Twitter: Bill_Sawchuk



BOB TYMCZYSZYN/STAFF PHOTO

Kaylee, a German shepherd, helped catch a burglar at the Ingles home in west St. Catharines.

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■ SHORT HILLS: Messages directed at Ministry of Natural Resources

Politicians call again for end to deer hunts

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Region is again calling for an end to deer hunts in Short Hills Provincial Park.

Citing concerns for public safety, regional councillors on the corporate services commit-

tee voted Wednesday to send a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources requesting it not allow future hunts.

The region has in the past written letters to the minister and members of natural resources, and its opposition to hunting in the 660-hectare park.

Through a long-standing treaty agreement, Haudenosaunee aboriginal hunters have been allowed into the closed park to kill deer with bows and arrows. A first hunt in the park took place four days in January 2013 and a second was held for eight days in November 2013.

The committee decision came after a presentation from Short Hills Wildlife Alliance members Robin Zavitz and Sheila Krekorian, who have opposed the hunt from the start.

Zavitz, whose Roland Rd. property abuts the park, reiterated safety concerns she expressed to councillors in May: native hunters on her property, despite the fact the MNR created a no-hunt buffer zone between the park and private property, a wounded deer found on a neighbour's land, and an arrow lodged in a tree on her property she said was not there prior to the November hunt.

The MNR said in May an investigation by it and Niagara Regional Police found no evidence of hunters trespassing on private property.

"The only thing that I can see that would be safe is to stop the hunt in Short Hills park. And I want to ask council if they will do that with whatever persuasion, clout, legal means that you have available to you," Zavitz said.

"We have shown that the MNR cannot secure the park, cannot control the activities of the hunters and cannot provide for public safety."

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn, the co-chair of the corporate services committee, noted the MNR beefed up security at

the park on the hunt days in November. "My read of it ... is that it didn't work," he said.

He tabled a motion to forward wildlife alliance documents to the MNR and to ask the ministry to put an end to the hunt because of safety concerns.

"I think the evidence is compelling that the Ministry of Natural Resources cannot guarantee public safety. It's just impossible," Augustyn said.

St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms agreed.

"For me, it's simply a matter of public safety. There does not appear to be any way to make this hunt safe," he said.

At the same spike, Pelham North Mayor Vance Badaway, accompanied by Lincoln Mayor Bill Hodges, moved to limit talk on the motion by asking the chair to put it to a vote.

"Are you serious?" St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrowski said when the majority of the committee agreed with Badaway. "That is brutal."

"Keep your powder dry for the lobby," Badaway said to Petrowski.

Committee members passed Augustyn's motion. It now needs approval of council-of-the-whole.

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■ CANADIAN FORCES: Training exercise Aug. 16 to 24

Soldiers to invade Niagara

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

There will be thousands of them. They will be armed.

But residents needn't worry.

More than 2,500 soldiers are expected to descend on Niagara from Aug. 16 to 24 for the Canadian Armed Forces' exercise Stalwart Guardian.

The annual exercise is used to train soldiers within the 4th Canadian Division Primary Reserve, including those from southern, central and western Ontario. Though traditionally held on a military base, this year's exercise is scheduled to take place at different Niagara locations, Capt. Jordan Layden of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry told Port Colborne city council last week.

The region was chosen because it provides not only a realistic training environment, but also one that comes with uniformed personnel on the streets, he said.

"We've seen the army bases after year. It gets too easy. We need a complex terrain to better train our soldiers."

Rural areas in St. Catharines, Thorold, Smithville and "Port Colborne especially" are all scheduled to be included, Layden said.

The exercise, which includes artillery and armed vehicles, will see groups ranging in size from 30 to 300 uniformed

soldiers working together in all trades including combat arms, combat support arms and support.

"There will be a lot of big trucks and heavy equipment," Layden said.

It will mean potential road closures, increased vehicle traffic and likely an increase in volume at local emergency rooms as medical emergencies during training are not uncommon.

There might also be an increase in noise due to vehicles and simulated gunfire, but there will be no simulated explosions in this exercise.

Layden wanted to alert the public that the exercise will continue both day and night.

"We do move in all hours of the day," he said. "The noise levels at certain times will be kept as minimal as possible."

Contact will be maintained between the Canadian Forces, local municipalities and emergency officials to ensure everyone is aware where and when training is taking place.

Choosing Niagara also affords the military the opportunity to interact with the public.

"That's something the army has strived for in the last few years," Layden said. "We are the military for the people."

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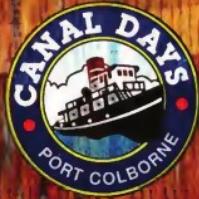
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Stink leads to Effingham St. closure

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

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A cyclist pedalling on Effingham St. in Pelham last Thursday at about 5 p.m. had his senses assaulted from the wicked

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PELHAM NEWS ■ THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014

stench emanating from a garbage bag in a ditch.

"A cyclist had ridden by, detected a very bad stench, thought it might be human remains, so, of course, out of an abundance of caution, we treated it as such," said Const. Greg Beaulieu, who was acting sergeant at the Niagara Regional Police detachment in Welland Tuesday.

Police closed a section of Effingham between Foss and Sumbler roads as

detectives and investigators from the forensic unit were called in from St. Catharines, Beaulieu said.

"We discovered it was a bag of fish heads thrown in the ditch," he said, noting there were thousands of maggots eating the remains.

"It stunk to high heaven."

Beaulieu said the scene was cleared at about 6:30 p.m.

He did not know what was done with the bag of fish heads.



AARON BOGGIO
R.Ph.B.Sc.PHm



Ask Our



RON PARTON
R.Ph.B.Sc.PHm

Pharmacists

LYME DISEASE: WHAT MAKES IT TICK?

As temperatures begin to finally rise across southern Ontario after several weeks of gloomy weather, many Niagara residents are eager to bring out their summer wardrobe.

However, it doesn't take long before we quickly remember that along with the summer heat comes the return of mosquitoes, spiders, and ticks. In Ontario, most residents are well informed about the illnesses mosquitoes can spread and ways of protecting yourself. But how informed are we about ticks?

There are many different species of ticks; however, the one that is of concern is the blacklegged tick, also known as the deer tick. This sesame seed sized tick can be the host to the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease, which, if untreated, can result in arthritis, heart problems, and various nervous system problems. The American brown dog tick is approximately half a centimeter and has not been shown to carry Lyme disease.

The Niagara region has a high concentration of ticks, especially in the areas surrounding Lake Erie. The Niagara Health Department recommends wearing pants and long sleeved shirts when walking in wooded areas to minimize the chances of a tick bite.

If you notice a tick has attached to your skin, it should be removed immediately by grabbing the head with a pair of tweezers and pulling straight up. Do not try to burn the tick off of the skin using a match or lighter. The area should then be washed with soap and water. If you are unable to remove the entire tick, you should give your doctor a call and they can remove it for you. The tick can be brought to the health department for analysis to see if it was infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Ticks often pick up the bacteria that cause Lyme disease while feeding on infected rodents. However, it should be noted that most ticks are not carriers.

The majority of people who are bitten by ticks do not develop Lyme disease, however if you notice a red bulleseye rash on the skin, develop a fever, headache or muscle and joint pains, you should seek medical attention. The symptoms typically develop within 1 to 2 weeks of a bite. Lyme disease can often be cured with antibiotics if treatment is started early.

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Editing seedlings produces incredible growth

It's mid-July and I'm heading into the circle garden for a morning of editing. While this may sound more like a writing project than gardening, a crop of self-sown annuals have filled the bed and must be thinned.

The herb garden is carpeted with many Brazilian verbena, and a good crop of dill has sprung up. I look for a few of the strongest-looking plants in each group and then pull out the rest. Once the patch has settled, I'll come back and edit a second time, selecting the strongest of each group and removing the others (possibly to put up for the deck or to move to another spot). I treat the bed to a long drink of water, fortified with a few handfuls of organic fertilizer, and then cover the bed with a layer of shredded cedar bark.

This editing job is essential — left to their own devices, a thick patch of seedlings will eventually choke each other out — it's better to sacrifice the seedlings now than end up with a skimpy show later. Plants need sunlight and space to grow and fill out properly. The garden responds quickly to this treatment, and with a bit of patience, the chosen annuals show incredible growth. I suspect the quick growth is because the roots are already established; the plants seem to explode into bloom, as if overjoyed to suddenly have some elbow room.

Brazilian verbena blooms like a bouquet of tiny purple balloons; with variety, the flowers seem to beat about the bush, getting mingled with patches of chartreuse dill butterflies, bees and a host of insects find this combination irresistible. I love to see the delicate play of light as the lofty blossoms dance above a carpet of velvety-green sage, spikes of violet lavender, bushy purple basil and mats of lemon thyme and variegated oregano.

Weeding and reorganizing the herb garden is often a welcome summer job. As I work my way around the circle, the scent of sun-warmed dill, basil, oregano, sage, lavender, tarragon and rosemary waft through the air — aromatherapy for the gardener.

Little miracles wait to be discovered among the cacophony of weeds, herbs and annual seedlings. This year, volunteer snapdragons are putting a bright face forward, supported by a cast of puny annuals: dill and green oregano. Last summer, our ravenous bunny minched his way through a patch of snaps as if they were green beans. Eventually his attention was deferred to another crop. The determined snaps managed a flush of colour just in time for Thanksgiving.

Even the optimist, I've planted a few rows of basil, which I've床ded with Genovese basil, in the vegetable garden. While basil and snapdragons might seem to be unusual bedfellows, there's method in my madness. Our bunny dislikes basil, I'm hoping it will act as a deterrent. So far, I'm winning

the battle.

With the early success of the snaps in the herb garden, I suspect he dislikes rosemary and oregano as well. Perhaps a warning about savoury herbs is programmed into his grey matter. Savoury herbs are added to savoury stews. I may be giving him too much credit, but the companion planting seems to be working, for now.

I was pleased to find a handful of dwarf mixed cosmos volunteers. Their finely cut leaf structure reminds me of marigold leaves, and I had planted a patch of cheerful yellow marigolds in this bed last summer. The seedlings filled in quickly, but without a bud to help identify the plant, I was concerned that I might be encouraging a weed, destined to flourish — been there, done that.

This week, tiny smooth buds popped up. These were not marigolds or weeds, but cosmos seedlings. Whew! With sunny yellow, red and tangerine-coloured daisy-like flowers, a similar patch of cosmos was the star of last year's fall border. Looks as if we'll be in for a repeat performance, and unlike marigolds, the flowers are back — cosmos seem to be unpoppable.

Taking advantage of self-seeding plants is a great way to stretch your gardening budget and fill the garden with free colour. Annual self-seeders include Brazilian verbena, pansy, salvia 'Victoria Blue', snapdragon, calendula, Greek oregano, sunflowers and gloria daisies. Many perennials will also self-seed, including echinacea, rudbeckia fulgida, veronica spicata, lady's mantle and coreopsis.

This year, I discovered a patch of seedlings hiding under the skirts of a mature false indigo (Baptisia) plant, like a brood of chicks hiding under the skirt feathers of a mother hen. I'll be trying my hand at putting up the seedlings this summer. Other perennial self-seeders include echinacea, rudbeckia fulgida, veronica spicata, lady's mantle and coreopsis.

Volunteer seedlings can be transplanted to containers for the deck or patio, or moved to quiet areas in the border that could use a boost of colour. Seedlings are prone to sprout in the most unusual places, in the cracks of the sidewalk, along a gravel pathway (gravel seems to be a preferred seedling bed), or up against the foundation of the house. Any crevice, however inhospitable, should be checked.

On the plus side, seedlings also appear in the most charming places, tucked in among established perennials and shrubs to create delightful colour echoes that an experienced gardener would be hard-pressed to duplicate. Several years ago, a clump of chartreuse lady's mantle appeared at the feet of a baby pink climbing rose. Luckily, the lady's mantle decided to stay — it's now one of my favourite combinations.

Theresa Forte is a local garden writer, photographer and speaker. You can reach her by calling 905-351-7540 or by e-mailing theresa_forte@sympatico.ca.

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HEALTH CARE: Welland hospital has openings

Volunteers needed for NHS emergency departments

QMI Agency Niagara

Volunteers are being welcomed at Welland hospital's emergency department.

Niagara Health System says it also has openings for volunteers in its emergency departments at Niagara Falls and St. Catharines hospitals.

"Volunteering at a rewarding experience and meaningful work for community members who want to get involved and have a real impact creating a positive experience for our patients," says volunteer services co-ordinator Debbie

Anderson.

The aim of the emergency department volunteer program, launched two years ago, is to increase patient satisfaction with NHS services.

"Volunteers assist in the waiting room by answering questions, addressing

concerns and being a liaison with staff. They also care for patients at the bedside by offering a variety of comfort measures and support," Anderson says in a news release.

NHS is looking for people with good communication and problem-solving skills, and a kind nature to support patients and families.

The health system's team of volunteers comprises a variety of individuals, including some working or retired (some from health care) as well as students in post-secondary pro-

grams preparing for careers in the field.

Volunteers will begin in September and receive comprehensive training. Interested applicants have until Aug. 1 to apply at www.niagarahealth.on.ca/en/volunteer-resources.



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■

NIAGARA REGION

Help Wanted: EMS is hiring

ROB HOULE
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Region is set to hang a Help Wanted sign for 18 additional Niagara Emergency Medical Services personnel.

Public health and social services committee members agreed last Tuesday to spend \$464,211 by the end of September to allow Niagara Region to hire 18 new EMS staffers and two full-time supervisors, the equivalent of two 24-hour ambulance crews.

The money to pay for those hires until the end of the year will come from the land ambulance severance reserve fund, which currently has \$4.6 million in it, medical officer of health Valerie Jaeger said. The yearly cost for those hires is slightly more than \$1.1 million and will need to be budgeted for 2015.

In a memo to the public health committee Sept. 1, the report to the public health committee asked that staff be directed to begin budgetary planning to add an additional 16 paramedics, two supervisors and two logical/regulatory staffers in the fourth quarter of 2015.

If agreed to by council on July 24, the total yearly price tag beginning in 2016 for the additional 38 EMS staffers would be \$4.6 million.

Jaeger said funding for land ambulance service is split 50-50 between the region and province. Because the province bases its fund-

ing calculations on prior year region budgets, there will be a one-year lag in receiving dollars for the new hires.

That means if the hiring receive final approval, the region will not reap any financial benefit this year but will see a return of \$252,106 in 2015, \$1.4 million in 2016 and the full cost share of \$2.3 million in 2017.

The report to committee notes the additional employees are needed to meet increased 911 calls requiring ambulance service.

The report says the increase in call volume can partly be attributed to population growth, an aging population and urban sprawl, resulting in which emergency departments in Port Colborne and Fort Erie were closed.

Jaeger said the new EMS staffers will cut back on forced overtime, shift overruns and missed meal breaks.

"Because we must respond to every 911 call, we do not have a choice as to whether we send an ambulance... What happens is that we send people who are overtime people."

Some 911 calls are overtime and not covered

on a cost-share with the province.

"The ministry funds us 50-50 on the council-approved budget, it does not fund us on unexpected overtime which we incur at the end of the year. Those become 100% council-funded," she said.


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